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Upcoming: Engineering Student Battles Cystic Fibrosis to Earn Degree/UD House, Damaged in December Fire, Now Rebuilt for Students

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upcoming at UD

COVERAGE TIPS FOR PRINT AND BROADCAST MEDIA

July 26, 1990

JULY 29: ENGINEERING STUDENT BATTLES CYSTIC FIBROSIS TO EARN DEGREE

When Paul Jarusiewicz Jr. accepts his electrical engineering degree from the University of Dayton on Sunday, July 29, it will mark the culmination of a six-year struggle. Paul, who has cystic fibrosis, wasn't expected to live past his teen years, much less complete college and go on to join the work force.

UD will hold commencement exercises on July 29 at 10 a.m. in UD Arena. A total of 174 bachelor's degrees, 471 graduate degrees and two doctoral degrees will be awarded to students.

Jarusiewicz, a resident of Kettering, will start work in a research lab at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base on Monday, July 30. "He's got a lot of determination and fight," said his mother, Jane Thompson. "I don't know how he's done it. He's just got a will to live. He looks at death squarely in the eye on a daily basis."

Thompson said her son spends a couple of months in the hospital each year fighting infections, including an extended stay in 1986 caused by a bout with pneumonia. "When he graduates, you'll see me dancing and crying at the same time," she said.

For media interviews, contact Paul Jarusiewicz at 258-1180 and Jane Thompson at 223-1000.

JULY 30: UD HOUSE, DAMAGED IN DECEMBER FIRE, NOW REBUILT FOR STUDENTS

A University of Dayton house--destroyed in a Dec. 22, 1989, fire and subsequently demolished in May--has been rebuilt and is ready for student occupants this fall. An open house at 114 Woodlawn Ave. will be held Monday, July 30, from 3 to 6 p.m. for city and University officials.

William A. Simms Jr. Builders Inc. of Centerville served as general contractor of the \$103,000 project. Insurance coverage provided approximately \$70,000 for the project, with the remaining \$33,000 in costs paid by UD.

Firefighters battled 18-below-zero temperatures to bring the fire under control in December. Totally damaged by the blaze, which was caused by electrical problems, the house was demolished on May 7 and a new eight-person residence has been constructed on the site. "This project is a chance for UD to reinvest in the community and continue to provide students with good, quality housing," said Joe Belle, assistant dean of students/residential properties.

Furniture in the house is included in the \$400,000 furnishing project undertaken when 115 houses in the campus neighborhood were acquired from former owner John T. Ross in December 1989. More than \$1 million has been spent in renovating the acquired properties.

For media interviews, contact Joe Belle at (513) 229-3317.



The University of Dayton

For further information or assistance in scheduling interviews, contact Office of Public Relations, (513) 229-3241.